

## Michaud and Allen Press Senate and House Leadership to Include Truck Weight Change in Energy Package

Tuesday, December 11 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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"We appreciated our conversations with leadership during House consideration of the bill earlier this month," said Allen and Michaud. "As the Senate moves to reopen the energy bill for further consideration, it's important that the leadership in both chambers understand the issues and move this crucial policy change forward. It is a long overdue change that will allow our local products to be moved to market more safely and efficiently."

The Senate is expected to vote on the energy bill on Thursday. The letter that Michaud and Allen sent is attached.

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December 11, 2007

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
John Boehner

Leader

Speaker of the House  
Leader

Minority

US House of Representatives  
of Representatives

US House

Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Honorable Mitch McConnell

The

Majority Leader

Minority Leader

United  
States Senate  
Senate

United States

Washington, DC 20510

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders:

As Congress moves the energy bill forward, we respectfully urge you to include language in the final bill that would exempt Maine's Interstate Highway System from federal truck weight limits. We appreciated our conversations with leadership during House consideration of the bill earlier this month and urge you all to continue to work with us to pass this important policy change.

Currently, most of Maine's Interstate highways are subject to the federally mandated truck weight limit of 80,000 pounds. However, Maine's state limit, and the limits of surrounding states and Canadian provinces, is 100,000 pounds. This difference puts Maine's major industries, especially forest products, at a competitive disadvantage.

Making this truck weight change would reduce the amount of fuel used to move products to market by cutting down on the number of truck trips and overall miles traveled. This increased efficiency would also have the benefit of making Maine roads safer by reducing the number of heavier trucks that currently divert off the Interstate highways onto state roads that pass through a number of our communities.

This change is supported by every municipality in Maine, chambers of commerce, and the entire Maine Congressional Delegation. In fact, Governor Baldacci recently visited with the Congressional Delegation in Washington to press for this policy change in order to help Maine's small businesses, especially truckers in the forest products industry who are facing high diesel prices.

We appreciate your commitment to moving an energy bill that would help to reduce our country's dependency on foreign oil. This reliance on foreign oil and its increasing costs are hurting all of our districts and our states. We respectfully urge you to consider our request to exempt all portions of the Maine Interstate Highway System from federal weight limits so that our local products can be moved to market more efficiently and safely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD  
ALLEN

TOM

Member of Congress  
of Congress

Member